

The title of this rule change, “Restoring Internet Freedom,” is exactly the opposite of the truth. Whose freedom is being restored, exactly? We, the consumers, currently have freedom to access whatever sites we want on the internet without interference from our service providers. That will come to an end if the FCC Open Internet Rules (net neutrality rules) are abolished.

The Open Internet Rules are extremely important to me. I demand that you protect them. Like most Americans, I have only one choice for true high speed Internet access: the cable company, Comcast. I’ve tried DSL and it’s terrible.

Cable companies (and wireless carriers) are actively lobbying Congress and the FCC for the power to:

- * Block sites and apps, to charge them “access fees,” which will no doubt increase at double digits every year, much like subscription fees have done.
- * Slow certain sites and apps to a crawl, to establish paid “fast lanes” (normal speed) and “slow lanes” (artificially low speeds)
- * Impose arbitrarily low data caps, so they can charge sites to escape those caps, or privilege their own services (“zero rating”)—this in particular is highly anticompetitive. NBC/Comcast I’m sure would love nothing more than to make me unable to watch CBS programming, or Hulu/Netflix/Amazon originals. It’s bad enough that cable companies are regional monopolies, they don’t need to monopolize the content as well.

These companies are lobbying so they can use their monopoly power to stand between me and the sites I want to access, extorting money from both ends. I’ll be forced to pay more to access the sites I want—internet alone is \$75/mo. already!—and sites will have to pay a kind of bribe to every major cable company or wireless carrier, just to continue working properly! This will of course result in higher subscription costs. The FCC’s Open Internet Rules are the only thing standing in their way. Don’t interfere with my ability to access what I want on the Internet, or with websites’ ability to reach me. You should leave the existing rules in place, and enforce them. My freedom, and the freedom of other consumers—citizens; voters—is far more important than the “freedom” of colossal companies to screw over their customers.

In short—don’t sell out citizens’ right to access information for only somewhat extravagant rates instead of extortional rates. The American people support Net Neutrality, and therefore so should you.